## [To the Editor of the National Whig.] The Duck

BY EDWARD VAN NESS It saving met accidentally with an oid College of the college of t Having met accidentally with an old College a Having met accidentally with an old College ac-quaintance whom I had not seen for many years, he gave me the following thrilling sketch of a combat in which he had been engaged since our less tracering: Having in the course of the year 18— managed to escape for a few weeks from the cares and toils of business, in the course of a tour through the Wesseran part of Virginia, I stopped for a few days at the prin-cipal hotel in the town of W—, on the Ohio, with the expectation of passing my time in agreeable in-tercourse with the excellent society which that town affords. I found the commany at the hotel where I ntiliar to my hand as if I had used it all my life. I accordingly brought up the gun naturally and easily, and aimed so truly that my first ball cut the edge of the paper. The rifle was then reloaded, and I fired again. My second ball cut out the intersection of the cross. A new cross was made, and a new paper placed upon the shingle, and again I fired, and again I cut out the intersection of the cross. This proof of skill was deemed sufficient, and we separated, my companion to go to his own house to clean the rifle, and have all the ammunition and accountements in complete order for the ensuing morning, which was the time I had determined the duel abould come off, whilst I returned to the hotel to pass the time as comfortable as I could. Whilst stitting in the public room, my antagonist came in and passed me several times, glancing at me like an enraged tiger, his countenance seemed to express at the same time public room, my antagonist came in and passed me several times, glancing at me like an enraged liger, his countenance seemed to express at the same time the most determined courage and the most blood thirsty ferocity. But I did not filnch or cower beneath his glance, for I knew that I was to fight with weapons with which I was at least his equal; and once whilst his malignant gaze was fixed upon me I uttered, with a smile or derision, and as if speaking to myself, the word rifter, when I saw him start and change color; this was evidently the first time the idea had struck him that I was not to become a helpless victim to his skill with the pistol. At the appointed time the seconds me to arrange the terms of the meeting. The opposite second, on being told that riftes were the weapons to be used, objected strongly, but was told percemptorily there could be no change. My second had fixed upon eight of clock the following morning as the time for the meeting, but the opposite second demanded a longer time, in order to get and try a rifle, us he said to a surface of the meeting. the following morning as the time for the meeting, but the opposite second demanded a longer time, in order to get and try a rifle, as he said he was unprepared with such a weapon. He was told he might have any time he wished. He, however, called on my friend about an hour afterwards, and told him that he would agree to the time first mentioned, as he had procured a rifle, and the impatience of his principal would not permit him to wait any longer. Accordingly, eight o'clock the next morning was fixed upon as the time of meetine and the circumstance. fixed upon as the time of meeting, and the place a secladed spot near the river bank, six miles below W. It may be interesting to some to be a sected as the second of the

fixed upon as the time of meeting, and the place a secluded spot near the river bank, six miles below W. It may be interesting to some to know what are the feelings of an individual the night before he is to engage in mortal combat. For myself, I had always supposed that such a situation must be one of the deepest mental agony. But I confess, to my surprise, I found this was not the case with me. My feelings were those of the most intense excitement. I felt that I was to engage in a deep and terrible kind of gambling, in which

The prize was life, the forfeit death—
And I wished most ardently for the time to arrive when I was to meet my fee in deadly combat. I felt a degree of energy of which I had never before deemed myself capable. I felt, also, a kind of feroclous pride in the part which I was absout to act, and the position in which I was placed, a position which, more than any other, tries the courage and stamins of a mun. To be opposed in single combat, and in cool blood, and after time for deliberation and reflection, to a determined, resolute, and skilful foe. I went to my bed at nine o'clock, but my mind was so much occupied termined, resolute, and skilful foe. I went to my bed at nine o'clock, but my mind was so mugh occupied by the approaching combat, that I did not fall asleep until after I heard the clock strike one, and then I went through in my sleep all the preliminaries to the duel up to the time of taking our positions on the ground, when I was awakened by a hand laid heavily upon my shoulder; it was that of my friend, who had come to call me, and bid me prepare for the business of the morning. He expressed some surprise at finding me asleep, bût considered it a favorable

omen, and a proof that I should not want more to go through with the trial that awaited me. It was now five o'clock, and we went to the house of my friend, where I found a berouche at the door, and a gentleman standing in the porch to whom I was in-troduced as the surgeon who was to attend me on the ground. We went into the house where an ex-cellent breakfast was already prepared, and I felt eve-ry disposition to do it justice, but the surgeon would bermit me to take nothing but offer and tree went Make and Learn for to the control of the control of

## DAILY NATIONAL WHIG.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, OCT, 21, 1847.

GENERAL ZACHARY TAYLOR.

Prome the City of Mexico.

We publish to-day the Kendall Mexican Correspondence of the New Orleans Picayune, for which we are indebted to the Haltimore Sua, which received it a day in advance of the regular mail, by Riddle & Cox. Alabama Express. This correspondence gives a ciear detail of our operations before, and in the city of Mexico, down to the 12th of September. We learn from the Union of last evening that the Executive is still without any official advices from General Scott's Head Quarters.

The grand feature of the intelligence now received is the confirmation of the fact, that the spirit of Mexico is broken, that her central government is at an end, and that she lies at our feet, pleading for our mercy instead of meriting our vengeance.

Mr. Kendall's Letters from the Army.

division have been struck down, either killed or wounded, in the actions of Churpbusco and El Mollande del Rey, and many of the companies have absolutely no one to command them.

The structure of the companies have absolutely no one to command them.

The wave of the companies have absolutely no one to command them.

The wave of the companies have a companies have a companies to the companies of them the received mornal matter. The wound of Major Waite, athings a severe, will not keep him long from duty. The same may be said of Captain Masons and Lieut. Foster, of the engineers. Maj. Wright was struck in the stomach by a partially spent ball, whiley allantly leading the storming party of five hundred blocked men, but is now recovering from the effect. I shall make further inquiries in relation to the wounded officers before I close this letter.

No less than initients of the deserters, captured by Gen. Twiggs and Shields at Churubusco, have been found fully guilty, and are to be hung to-morrow morning. The miscreant Riley, who commanded them, escapes the punishment of eath, as he proved that he deserted before the war. He has been sentenced, however, to be severely whipped, to be branded as well, and to wear a ball and chain in front of the army during the war? A deserter taken among it the prisoners at Mollno on the Sth, was summarily dealt with. It seems that he deserted from Monterey last fall, and a comrade who recognised him, to save the trouble of a court martial, at once pitched him into the mill flume and he was crushed to pieces by the wheel. Another batch of deserters, who have been undergoing a trial here in Tucubaya, will be hung in a day or two its said.

The following list of the officers killed and wounded in Gen. Cadwalader's brigade, I believe to be nearly by correct. If there is any inaccuracy in it, will be hung in a day or two its said.

The following list of the officers killed and wounded in Gen. Cadwalader's brigade, I believe to be the bung in a day or two its said.

The following list of

alarming fact, that, owing to the want of business syment, our city is far from being prosperous sain traverses the streets, with arms folicid; the uniness looks forward with fearful forebodings to hen his obligations fall due, well knowing that

ent the horizon.

What, then, must we do? MANUFACTURE. Building is overdone; there being already more houses than are required by the population. Vacant tements are seen on every hand, and rente are now so extremely low that house property vields, on an average, not more than five per cent. To employ the masses, and to increase business, by the errotion of buildings, is, therefore, worse that folly. Commerce is, at present at least, out of the question. Manufactories, then, are our may resear. They are the remedy, and to them must we look for the advancement of the various interests of our city.

What are the benefits to be derived from the catablishment of manufactories? Establish them, and employment will be given not only to actisane said labovers, now unemployed, but children and women, whose labor is now unproductive, will receive a fair compensation for their services. The population will rapidly increase, the value of property be enhanced, house rent advance, building go on with censered activity, trade flouries, business of every kind review, the "hom" of enterprise be heard, and plensygladden the hearts of many who are now depressed. Create manufactories:

[We shall be pleased if J. P. P., or any other of our correspondents, can terife up manufactures in our city. Stir up our capitalists. Show them that their interests can be best promoted by the employment of their money in manufactures, and the thing is done. Our columns are open to every pen that can throw light upon this subject: but, remember one thing—capitalists want demonstration, not deciamation.—Exp.

APPLICTING OCCURRENCE.—On Sunday morning last, one of the neighbors was attracted by the crying of a child in the house occupied by Mrs. Timothy B. Thomas, at Mount Savage. On approaching the house, it was found to be closed; assistance was immediately summoned and the door broken open. On entering, a herrible spectacle presented itself. Mrs. Thomas was dead in her bed, the body in a partial state of decomposition, and a poor little infant of five weeks lying at the breast, endeavoring to extract nourishment from the dried up foundains of its mother's corpse; while another child, aged about 18 months, was sitting on the floor, weeping from hunger and exhaustion.

An inquest was held over the body. From the evidence of the witnesses, and the opinion of Dr. Mosher, the physician at Mount Savage, we learn that Mrs. Thomas had probably been dead from Friday night, about the time she retired to rest. Her death was occasioned either by appolexy or suffusion of water on the brain. Her Rusband, Timothy B. Thomas, was for some time a miner in the service of the Mount Savage Company, and, upon the breaking up of the works, went to the west, probably to Ohio, to seek employment. He left his wife after a short visit some time during the past week. We are happy to hear that the poor little children have fallen into good hands, and are doing well. There were no signs of destitution about the house occupied by Mrs. Thomas.

City Intelligence.

A Town CLOCK.—Some years ago there was much talk about this all-important article, but like many other things of speculation, it has died, and not a vestige is now left to tell that such a matter was ever whispered. Is the Corporation not able to appro-priate a sum sufficient for this purpose? We do not pretend to know the state of the finances of the Cor-poration, but, if we may udue from the expenditures. whispered. Is the Corporation not able to appropriate a sum sufficient for this purpose? We do not pretend to know the state of the finances of the Corporation, but, if we may judge from the expenditures that have been made of late years for improvements far less important than this, we conjecture that there is a surplus in the treasury, of which they know how to rid themselves. "Its rue that there is a half a substitute for a town clock—the bell of the Persevance Engine House—but this is subject to all the irregularities of human nature, and of course cannot be taken as a guide for the correct time. Sometimes it "alarms the natives" by its rapid strokes, and puts us in mind of a fellow eating a hot hasty pudding; and the cry of "fire," "fire," not unfrequently follows. At other times the motion is so slow that one must have the patience of a Jub to count them. Go can yof the cities, or even any well regulated village in the North, and a "thousand and one" are constantly dinging in one's cars to put him in mind of the time of day. Shall the city of Washington then, be destitute much lorger of this indispensable-critic? We sincerely hope that the citizens will consider this matter again.

Another Stabsine Case.—Again we have to re-

Another this matter again.

Another Stabiling Last night between the hours of 7 and 8 o'clock there was collected as usual 1 party of half-grown boys in front of the Northern Liberties Market-house. It appears that a man by the name of Johnson, a shoemaker, was passing by when some of the boys threw stones at him, whereupon he turned upon them to return the assault, but y mistake stabbed two boys who had not joined in the affray. The two boys then fell upon Johnson and best him so severely that he had to be carried home.

home.

The boys were taken to Dr. Johnston, who dressad their wounds. Both were stabbed in the left side.
One of them, Wm. Jones, was injured very much,
and carried home on a couch, the other-Robert
Dovs-was less injured. This nightly assemblage at
the above place ought certainly to be broken up.

Was Knockep Down.—A colored man, so drunk
that he didn't know his name, sewed some boys, at

WAS KNOCKED DOWN.—A colored man, so drunk that he didn't know his name, seared some boys, at the corner of 7th and F streets, telling them that "he could whip any of them," see, when one of the boys, by way of a trist, knocked him down and the shood which flowed from his nasal was seen this morning. As this case happoned about the same time as the above, we think it would be well if the watchines were on duty earther than 90 chock vatchmen were on duty earlier than 9 o'clock.

Houricultural.—Subjoined are the dimension of some of the garden fraits raised the past seasony Henry Cussidy, on Major Heiss's farm, near the course.

by Henry Cussidy, on Major Heise's Iarm, near the race course:

Ears of Corn, 14 1-2 inches long, with 16 rows—60 grains in each row, making 962 grains to the car. The grains are mammoth size.

Cabbages 25 lbs. in weight per head.

Egg Plants 7 1-2 lbs. in weight each.

We are indebted to Mr. McAran, long known as the proprietor of the Philadelphia garden bearing his name, for these particulars.

name, for these particulars.

Naw Bunding.—A three-story brick dwelling is being erected on E, between 9th and 10th streets, immediately adjoining Temperance Hall on the east. This will be considerable of an improvement and is owned by Mr. Samuel Dowaughn.

L'a Last night was a most splendid n ght, and was no doubt like the one which the poet had in his eye when he wrote

"Mest me by moonlight alone"—

but it was one which we had rather witness while sitting by a blazing fire, than enjoy the smiles of "fair Cynthia" in walking abroad, it is time, however, for cold nights and mornings, and old Jack is often found nipping many an adventurous quiz.

Warret House.—Only one arrest during the past

Watch House.—Only one arrest during the pas-night—a colored woman, who was let go this morning

Arrivals at Gotels, etc., up to 2 p. m. J R Eggieston, Miss John N Denning, Md J Taylor, N Y A L Haralson, Ala

B S Wotcott and lady, N Y
S Case and lady, N Y
Mrs Gilbert, daughter and
nicec, N Y
Mrs McCreat and 2 nons, N Y
Wri Habersham, Md
W E Latham, Philadelphia
B S Woolridge, Va
-John S Stephena, N Y
B G Shaw, New Orleans A L. Haralson, Ala H. T. Loper, Philadelphia A. Heckman, " Wm G. Jackson, Va Dr. W. W. Williamson, Md

W H Morgan and lady, Md diss Footman, Md NAMES FOOTHMAN, MAIL

INDIAN QUERN HOTEL, BY T. & M. BROWN.

Col J McFerran, Miss
J Stones, Mol
M Shanika, Md
Geo Aler, Va
F M Howie, Md
T G Harris, Washington
W Hammett,
GABRE<sup>1</sup> HOTEL.
GABRE<sup>1</sup> HOTEL.

John T Lindsey, Va D McDermou, Va
Thos Phillips, Va D Conrad, Va. TYLER'S MOTEL.

Alfred Vall, lady and 2 chil. Hon A P Bagby & family, Aladren, Washington.

Ship News.

PORT OF WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 21, 1947.

Steamer Oscoola, James Mitchell master, merchandize and passengers to the District—Bullimore.
Schr New York, Samuel McKown master, coal to Jas Harvey & Co-Hayre de Grace.
Schr Lucretia, John Reed master, wood, R. Finney—river. Schr Indianna, Nathaniel Todd master, potatoes, city—river.
Schr Alfred, Sam Gibson master, wood, Jas Harvey & Co—river.

Canal-boat Eliza, wood, for Capt. Neal,

"Pheasant, sand, J. Coburn.
Long John, wood, several citizens.

Rainbler, sand, J. Coburn. At Willow Bank, Finshing, L. I., on the 14th, instant, by the Rev E. S. Conswall, o Connecticut, Hon. HENRY BEDINGER, of Virginia, to CARCLINE B., etclest dampt et of Jonn W. Lawinsea, Eag., of the former place.

At her residence in Lexington, Va., on the 12th instant, Mrs. SUSAN S. McDOWELL, comport of the 11th LAMAS McDowell, formerly Governor of Virginia, in the 47th year of her age.

At Lebanon, West river, on the 12th instant, in the 50th year of her age, Mrs. ELIZABETH M. THOMAS, WIF of John Thomas, Esq., of that place.

Whitney's Russian Bath,

Corner 4 1-3 street and Missouri avenue.

There is great tilling in this lists in preventing and removing all disease: that field is their to. Those who have never rived it will find it to their advantage to make the experiment. Price for single bath FIFTY CENTS. oct 3-41

United States Military Cloth Dressing and

Dying Establishment,

OUTH side Penneyivania avenue, (the first Establishment

D East of Coleman's Hotel, where SILE, MERINO, and

all kinds of STRAW BONNEYS are dyed in the neatest manner.

ALSO—All kinds of WEARING APPAREL cleamed,
colored and repaired in the best style and at reduced prices.

WALL & KING,

Colored Chest.

Cabinet, Chair, and Sofa Manufacturers,
AND UPHOLSTRIBES,
Corner of 6th and G streets, Washington, D. C.,
Are now prepared to diameterure every set,
scription of HOUSEHEED PURPTURE and
scription of HOUSEHEED PURPTURE requires or taken in exchange for new.
UNDERTAKING.
Funerals attended to at the shortest notice and the most
sensonable terms.

ENOCH W. SMALLWOOD,
DEALER IN

GARRIEN W. SMALLWOOD,
DEALER IN

GROCERIES, HARDWARE, &C.,
KEEPE COMPARY OF PARKING OF THE STATE OF THE STATE